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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

UNITED STATES-FRANCE COMBINATION SERVICES

NOTICE

By this notice, we invite all U.S. carriers interested in making use of recently negotiated new frequencies for U.S.-France scheduled combination services to file applications with the Department for their proposed 1999 services.

On April 8, 1998, the United States and France signed a Memorandum of Consultations (MOC) and initialed the text of a framework for a new Air Transport Agreement (Agreement) which provides for substantial growth in transatlantic scheduled air services.¹

With respect to combination services, the Agreement provides that during the period April 1998 through April 2002, the airlines designated for combination services collectively may operate up to 63 additional weekly frequencies in the market. Of these 63 frequencies, a total of 21 frequencies became available immediately. Seven more become available in April 1999.²

By Order 98-5-8, the Department allocated 11 of the 21 additional frequencies available immediately. In that order, the Department stated that applications for allocation of the 10 remaining frequencies would be considered at the same time that it considered applications for the seven additional frequencies available in April 1999. The Department also stated its intention soon to issue a notice for the 1999 service proposals. Against this background, we are issuing this notice, which invites 1999 service proposals for the purpose of allocating a total of 17 weekly frequencies--10 of which remain available from the prior 21 and seven of which become available beginning April 1999.

Carriers with proposals to use these frequencies in 1999 should file exemption and frequency allocation applications, where applicable, no later than June 5, 1998. Carriers that already hold the necessary underlying authority should file an application for allocation of the available

¹ The MOC noted the intention of each Party to permit immediately, on the basis of comity and reciprocity, operations consistent with the terms of the Agreement.

² References to April of a given year mean that opportunities will be available from the first day of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) summer traffic season, which is normally in the last week of March. We will deal subsequently with the frequencies that become available in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

frequencies.³ Answers to applications will be due June 15, 1998, and replies to answers will be due June 22, 1998. Except for the filing dates, exemption applications should conform to Subpart Q of Part 302 of the Department's regulations (14 CFR Part 302). All applications (exemption and frequency allocation) should be filed with the Department of Transportation, Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.⁴ They should specify the markets to be served; the aircraft type and passenger capacity of the aircraft to be used and whether such aircraft are currently available in the carrier's fleet; the proposed startup date; the number of weekly frequencies and the full routing of the flights to be operated; and evidence of the carrier's underlying economic authority, including route integration authority, if applicable. Further procedures for acting on the applications filed, if necessary, will be established in a future Department order.

We will serve this notice on all U.S. certificated air carriers.

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH
Director, Office of
International Aviation

(SEAL)

Dated: May 18, 1998

An electronic version of this notice is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov/general/orders/aviation.html>

³ We note that American Airlines, Inc., and US Airways, Inc., already have applications on file, which we deferred in Order 98-5-8. The two carriers are free to update their applications consistent with the procedural schedule set forth in this order.

⁴ The original submission is to be unbound and without tabs on 8½" x 11" white paper using dark ink (not green) to facilitate use of the Department's docket imaging system.